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APPLICATION OF

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

**For approval of expenditures
for new generation facilities
and for a certificate of public
convenience and necessity**

CASE NO. PUE000009

and

**For approval and certification
of transmission facilities**

CASE NO. PUE000010

HEARING EXAMINER'S RULING

May 9, 2000

On January 21, 2000, Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Virginia Power" or the "Company") filed an application for approval of expenditures and for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for new generation facilities in Caroline County, Virginia, near the town of Ladysmith. It also filed an application for approval and certification of electric transmission facilities to connect the proposed new generating units to the Company's transmission system. The Commission established a procedural schedule to consider the applications and scheduled a hearing for May 23, 2000.

On May 4, 2000, Virginia Power, by counsel, filed a Motion for Interim Authority to Make Financial Expenditures and to Undertake Permitting, Site Development, and Construction Work for the proposed combustion turbine peaking units and related facilities. Virginia Power seeks such authority, at its own expense and risk, to ensure timely installation and completion of the project if approved. Virginia Power requests that the Commission grant such interim authority on or before May 15, 2000.

Staff and interested parties should have an opportunity to comment on the pending motion, and Virginia Power should more fully address the urgency of its request, especially its request for a ruling by May 15. Accordingly,

IT IS DIRECTED:

(1) Staff and interested parties may file any response to the Motion on or before May 12, 2000; and

(2) Virginia Power should supplement its request to more fully address the urgency of the relief it seeks, and may file its reply to any responses on May 15, 2000.

Deborah V. Ellenberg
Chief Hearing Examiner